

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

TREASURY

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

INFO USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: NOVEMBER 4 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

OPPOSITION SEN LOUNG CHARGES POLICE FIRED SATURDAY ON
ANTI-GOVT VILLAGERS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST GVN CORRUPTION,
KILLING ONE AND WOUNDING 12 (AP SAIGON - SUN, WP). UPI
REPORTS LOUNG CLAIMING AT LEAST THREE KILLED AND 10
WOUNDED (NYDN, PHINQ). BUT OFFICIAL SOURCES SAY SHOOTING
STEMMED FROM LAND DISPUTE, WITH NO POLITICAL OVERTONES;
AND GOVT SPOKESMAN SAID WHOLE THING WAS "FABRICATION"
AIMED AT SLANDERING REGIME. UPI ADDS THAT IF CONFIRMED,
THIS WOULD MARK FIRST USE OF GUNS IN ANTI-THIEU DEMONSTRATION.
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TIONS THAT BEGAN TWO MONTHS AGO. NYT'S SHIPLER, IN
SAIGON, NOTES THAT REV TRAN HUU THANH SUPPORTED LUONG'S
ALLEGATIONS.

SEN MAU SAYS AT LEAST 50 LEGISLATORS HAVE SIGNED PETITION
CALLING FOR THIE'S RESIGNATION AND FULL LIST OF SIGNERS
WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON (WP).

SVN COMMAND REPORTS MORE THAN 100 CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES
IN HEAVY FIGHTING NEAR HIGHWAY 1 IN BINH
INH PROVINCE
(WP).

GKR COMMAND SAYS
86 REBELS AND 3 GKR SOLDIERS WERE KILLED
IN TWO DAYS OF FIGHTING IN PARROT'S BEAK REGION (WP).

2. KOREA

SEIDEN (SUN) DESCRIBES SUDDEN END OF ANTI-JAPANESE
DEMONSTRATIONS IN KOREA, DAY AFTER "BEGRUDGING
RECONCILIATION." UNDERLYING ANTI-JAPANESE FEELINGS
ERUPTED AFTER AUG 15 KILLING OF MRS PARK BY KOREAN
RESIDENT OF JAPAN. JAPAN "APOLOGIZED" BUT DID NOT
ACCEDE TO ROK DEMANDS TO CRACK DOWN ON ANTI-
PARK KOREANS
IN JAPAN. SEIDEN QUOTES "OBJECTIVE WESTERN DIPLOMAT"
SAYING "SINCE BASIC ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING IS ALWAYS
THERE BENEATH SURFACE, IT NOT DIFFICULT FOR GOVT TO
WHIP IT UP FROM TIME TO TIME TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR
KOREAN POSITION IN DIPLOMATIC NEGOTIATIONS WITH JAPAN."
MANY OBSERVERS, SAY SEIDEN, BELIEVE ROKG AGENTS
CAREFULLY ORCHESTRATED THE ANTI-JAPANESE DEMONSTRATIONS.
JAPANESE BUSINESSMEN CONTINUE TO VISIT SEOUL IN USUAL
LARGE NUMBERS, BUT TOURISTS ARE RELUCTANT TO GO THERE
EVEN THOUGH ANTI-JAPANESE FEELING HAS GONE BENEATH
SURFACE.

SECOND MAJOR FIRE IN TWO YEARS IN BROWN HOTEL, SEOUL,
KILLS 88 PERSONS (AP IN NYT, NYDN, PHINQ, SUN; AP
WIREPHOTO IN NYT, NYDN.) FIRE, CAUSED BY UNIDENTIFIED
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SMOKER, TRAPPED 200 IN SIXTH-FLOOR DISCO, WHERE 65
DIED. DISCO STAFF LOCKED EXITS TO COLLECT CHECKS BEFORE
GUESTS COULD FLEE.

3. AUSTRALIA

DURING TANAKA VISIT WHITLAM ANNOUNCED THAT GOA IS EASING
RESTRICTIONS ON FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN MINING PROJECTS,
AND STRESSING NEED FOR AUSSIE CONTROL RATHER THAN FULL
OWNERSHIP (AP WSJ, PHINQ).

REUTER (SYDNEY) REPORTS TWO SOVIET DIPLOMATIC COURIERS
STRANDED THERE SUNDAY AFTER THREE AIRLINE PILOTS REFUSED

THEM AS PASSENGERS ON LONDON-BOUND FLIGHTS BECAUSE COURIERS WOULD NOT UNDERGO COMPULSORY ROUTINE SECURITY CHECKS AND WOULD GIVE NO ASSURANCE THEY WERE NOT CARRYING ARMS (NYT).

4. PHILLIPINES

GOP INFORMATION DEPT ANNOUNCES NEW MARCOS DECREE OFFERING SWEEPING AMNESTY TO PERSONS GOVT REGARDS AS IDEOLOGICAL SUBVERSIVES. DECREE GIVES MOMENTUM TO CAMPAIGN TO CONCILIATE ALL OPPOSITION GROUPS AND FOLLOWS DISTINCT SOFTENING OF GOP ATTITUDE TOWARD LEFTISTS THAT DEVELOPED ALONG WITH POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD SOVIET AND PRC (NYT).

5. JAPAN

FM KIMURA SAYS IN LAGOS THAT JAPAN TO TURN GRADUALLY TO BLACK AFRICA FOR AGRICULTURAL IMPORTS AS FIRST STEP IN PHASING OUT TRADE WITH WHITE-RULED SA (AP -SUN).

YASHICA STAVES OFF BANKRUPTCY WITH HALF-MILLION DOLLAR LOAN FROM TAIYO-KOBE BANK, BUT STILL FACES 2.8 MILLION DEBTS; AND MUST PAY 6.6 MILLION DOLLAR SEVERANCE PAY TO VOLUNTEER RETIREES UNDER PLAN TO CUT WORK FORCE BY 40 PCT. SOME WORKERS BLOCKING SALE OF ONE OF TWO YASHICA PLANTS TO COMPUTER FIRM (WSJ). MAJOR CREDITORS SAY THEY CAN NOT KEEP YASHICA AFLOAT IF RETRENCHMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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PLAN FAILS. VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT CRUCIAL TO PLAN ACCEPTED BY UNION EARLIER, BUT FELL THROUGH WHEN UNION LEADER TRIED TO COMMIT HARA-KIRI (JOC).

FULLER (JOC) REPORTS ESSO SEKIYU PRES YASHIRO REMARKS TO JAPAN SOCIETY LUNCHEON IN TOKYO THAT NOT MUCH MOVEMENT EXPECTED IN NEXT FEW YEARS ON JAPAN-SOV PLAN TO DEVELOP SIBERIAN NATURAL GAS, WITH GOJ CONCERNED ABOUT IMPACT ON JAPAN-PRC RELATIONS. WORLD OIL PRICES MAY RISE TO REFLECT INFLATION. JAPAN FORCED TO BORROW EURODOLLARS HEAVILY TO FINANCE 20 BILLION OIL DEFICIT (UP FROM 6.7 BILLION LAST YEAR); HOPES TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTS FROM 75 PCT OF CONSUMPTION TO 60 PCT; PLANS TO PRODUCE 60 MILLION KILOWAT HOURS OF NUCLEAR POWER BY 1985; AND HOPES TO SHIFT FROM BASIC INDUSTRY TO LOW-ENERGY, HIGH TECHNOLOGY AREAS.

PARKS (SUN) REPORTS JAPANESE BUSINESS SOURCES IN MOSCOW SAY NEGOTIATIONS FOR US-SOV-JAPANESE DEVELOPMENT OF SIBERIAN NATURAL GAS ALMOST COMPLETE. JAPANESE EXPECT FINAL AGREEMENT IN MID-NOVEMBER MEETING IN PARIS BY

GOVT AND BUSINESS OFFICIALS OF THREE NATIONS. PROJECT INVOLVES CONSTRUCTION OF 2,000.MILE PIPELINE FROM YAKUTSK TO VLADIVOSTOK AREA AND FLEET OF ABOUT 20 CRYOGENIC TANKERS TO SHIP 2 BILLION CUBIC FEET LNG PER DAY TO JAPAN AND US WEST COAST OVER 25 YEARS. PIPELINE AND PLANT TO COST 2 BILLION IN CREDITS BY US AND JAPAN AND SHIPS 2 BILLION, WITH SOVS TO PAY 6 BILLION INTERNAL COSTS. PARTICIPANTS ARE EL PASO NATURAL GAS, OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM AND TOKYO GAS, WITH BECHTEL CORP TO JOIN IN CONSTRUCTION. SAME SOURCES ACKNOWLEDGE TYUMEN OIL PROJECT NOW DEAD, SINCE JAPANESE

WARY ABOUT POSSIBLE CHINESE REACTION TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW RAILROAD CLOSE TO THEIR BORDERS.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

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FROM HK, GREENWAY (WP) SAYS HAK WILL FIND US-PRC RELATIONS MORE TENUOUS THAN THEY WERE DURING HIS LAST PEKING VISIT YEAR AGO. WHILE BASIS FOR DETENTE (THAT US AND PRC HAVE MORE TO FEAR FROM SOVIETS THAN FROM EACH OTHER) SEEMS SECURE, MOMENTUM HAS BEEN LOST IN PAST YEAR. INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES IN BOTH COUNTRIES -- WATERGATE FOR US, ANTI-LIN AND CONFUCIUS CAMPAIGN IN CHINA AND CHOU'S WEAKENING POSITION -- ARE PARTLY RESPONSIBLE. BUT CHINESE ALSO PRIVATELY MAKE CLEAR THEIR DISSATISFACTION WITH LACK OF PROGRESS ON TAIWAN ISSUE AND RELATED ISSUE OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THEY CITE, AGAIN PRIVATELY, UNGER APPOINTMENT AND OPENING OF ROC CONSULATES IN US, AS WELL AS FACT THAT USLO FUNCTIONS HAVE NOT EXPANDED AS HAK SAID THEY WOULD AFTER LAST VISIT.

GIVEN CHINESE PERCEPTION THAT US IS REALLY RUN BY MONOPOLY CAPITALISTS, THEY WERE CONFUSED BY ATTACKS ON ITT AND NOW ON NELSON ROCKEFELLER HIMSELF. WHILE US-PRC EXCHANGES ARE BEGINNING TO PICK UP AGAIN AND ANTI-FOREIGN CAMPAIGN HAS ABATED, LEFTIST CHALLENGE TO CHOU'S AUTHORITY CONTINUES, AND CHIANG CHING APPEARS MORE PROMINENT NOW THAN YEAR AGO. GIVEN ALSO US-PRC DIFFERENCES IN WORLD ISSUES SUCH AS FOOD, POPULATION, INFLATION AND ENERGY, GREENWAY CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS CLEARLY BODY OF OPINION IN PRC LEADERSHIP THAT DIS-AGREES ABOUT VALUE OF DETENTE WITH US, AND HAK CAN NO LONGER BE AS CONFIDENT THAT STATUS QUO CAN BE MAINTAINED.

GLOBE AND MAIL'S BURNS (CSM) SEES CANADIAN GOVERNMENT

SLAMMING DOOR ON THOUSANDS OF CHINESE WHOSE HOPES TO JOIN RELATIVES HAD BEEN RAISED WHEN TRUDEAU PERSUADED PRC AUTHORITIES TO AGREE TO EMIGRATION TO REUNITE FAMILIES. CHINESE CANADIANS HAVE FILED APPLICATIONS ON BEHALF OF 15,000 RELATIVES. CHINESE HAVE SO FAR APPROVED 463 EXIT VISAS WITH DOZENS MORE APPROVED EACH WEEK, BUT ONLY 207, NEARLY ALL OF TOP PRIORITY GROUP OF IMMEDIATE KIN, HAVE RECEIVED CANADIAN VISAS. OTHER DEPENDENTS, I.E., SIBLINGS, PARENTS UNDER 60, CHILDREN OVER 21, ETC., HAVE BEEN TURNED UNCLASSIFIED

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DOWN AT RATE OF 50 PERCENT, AND PROSPECT IS THAT LESS

THAN ONE IN THREE WILL GET TO CANADA. THEY RECEIVE FEWER "POINTS" FOR RELATIONSHIP AND ARE RATED ON THEIR SUITABILITY FOR ENTRY INTO LABOR FORCE. CANADIAN OFFICIALS ARGUE THERE IS NO CASE FOR SUSPENSION OF STANDARD IMMIGRATION CRITERIA FOR THEM; IT WOULD OFFEND OTHER IMMIGRANT GROUPS AND AMOUNT TO IMPLICIT MORAL JUDGMENT ON PRC SOCIETY THAT WOULD RISK GIVING OFFENSE TO PRC.

7. VIETNAM

NYT'S MARKHAM EXAMINES OPPOSITION TO THIEU, WHICH HAS DEVELOPED SINCE "PEACE" CAME. THOUGH ATTACKED FOR CORRUPTION AND REPRESSION HE IS, AT BOTTOM, BLAMED FOR PRESIDING AT TIME WHEN THINGS HAVE GONE FROM BAD TO WORSE. LOOKING TO FUTURE, MANY INFORMED VIETS HAVE CONCLUDED RIGHTLY OR WRONGLY THAT NO SVN GOVERNMENT CAN AFFORD THIEU'S POLICY OF UNCOMPROMISING MILITARY CONFRONTATION. DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS NIXON'S OUSTER, CONGRESSIONAL CUTS, AND THIEU'S DENUNCIATION OF US BETRAYAL OF "SUPPOSED PLEDGE OF SUPPORT" CAUSE VIETS TO DRAW OWN CONCLUSIONS DESPITE CONTRARY EVIDENCE SUCH AS FIRM SUPPORT BY AMB MARTIN TO GOVERNMENT THE PEOPLE HAVE "FREELY CHOSEN, IN THEIR STRUGGLE AGAINST THE CRUEL" NVN AGGRESSION.

NEXT TWELVE MONTHS PROMISE TO BE TURBULENT. WHILE GVN SEEMS TO HAVE IMAGE OF MONOLITHIC POLICE STATE, THERE IS ASTONISHING DEGREE OF VIOLENT CRITICISM OF GOVT, WITH LOOSE COALITION OF CATHOLICS, BUDDHISTS, JOURNALISTS, VETS GROUPS, LAWYER'S ASSNS., AND SVN'S LARGEST LABOR UNION HAVING ITS INNINGS. BUT BOTH THIEU AND HIS OPPOSITION LACK DEMONSTRABLE MASS BASE.

WHEN AMERICANS WERE THERE, CORRUPTION WAS TOLERABLE SINCE THE FAT CAME OFF UNCLE SAM. TODAY LIFE IS EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND WEB OF CORRUPTION AFFECTS DWINDLING INCOME OF ORDINARY VIETS. AND WAR GOES ON AT FRIGHTFUL PACE;

SINCE C-F, GVN SAYS IT HAS SUFFERED 24,752 KILLED, 101,248
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WOUNDED AND OVER 13,000 MISSING.

SUN'S ISAACS (NOV 3), IN SAIGON, REVIEWS SVN WAVE OF
PUBLIC PROTEST OVER LAST TWO MONTHS THAT HAS FOCUSED
ON CORRUPTION AND REPRESSION ISSUES, WHICH "ROOTED
IN THE DEEP, WAR-WEARINESS AND ECONOMIC MISERY" OF
VIET PEOPLE -- AND "AIMED SQUARELY AT" THIEU. ALTHOUGH
STILL SMALL AND FRAGMENTED, PROTEST CAMPAIGN HAS MADE
THIEU SEEM MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER BEFORE. TIDE OF

POLITICAL DISSENT HAS EMERGED AT TIME WHEN THIEU'S
PERSONAL POPULARITY, IN OPINION OF MANY VIETNAMESE,
HAS SUNK TO ITS LOWEST POINT SINCE HE ASSUMED PRESIDENCY.
FANK'S POSITION ON BATTLEFIELDS HAS BEEN SLOWLY
DETERIORATING FOR MANY MONTHS, AND COUNTRY IS IN GRIP
OF SEVERE ECONOMIC DEPRESSION THAT HAS LOWERED LIVING
STANDARDS FOR MANY VIETNAMESE.

TO ISAACS, WHAT MAKES CURRENT WAVE OF PROTEST SEEM
SERIOUS IS NOT SO MUCH DEMONSTRATIONS THEMSELVES AS
PUBLIC MOOD THAT "WITH THIEU THERE IS NO HOPE," AS
OPPOSITION LEADER TRAN VAN TUYEN PUT IT. NOTES GOVT
HAS NOT LEVELED CHARGE OF COMMUNISM AGAINST REV THANH'S
FOLLOWERS -- "AN UNUSUAL DEVELOPMENT" IN POLITICAL
ATMOSPHERE WHERE VIRTUALLY ALL DISSENT HAS AUTOMATICALLY
BEEN DECLARED COMMUNIST. SEN MAO HAS HINTED AT
MOVING TO ACTION STAGE, ALTHOUGH SOME OBSERVERS BELIEVE
HIS CLAIM THAT RELIGIOUS LEADERS ARE SUPPORTING HIM IS
EXAGGERATED. EMBATTLED THIEU ALSO FACES PROBLEMS IN
RANKS OF THOSE WHO NORMALLY SUPPORT HIM, SUCH AS TRAN
QUOC BUU.

SO FAR, THIEU HAS RESPONDED TO PROTEST MOVEMENT WITH
POLICY OF RESTRAINT, WHICH SUGGESTS HE HOPES MILD LI-
BERALIZATION, COUPLED WITH DISMISSALS OF SOME FLAGRANTLY
CORRUPT OFFICIALS, WILL DEFUSE MOVEMENT AND LET HIM
REMAIN IN OFFICE. ISAACS CONCLUDES, HOWEVER, THAT
NOTHING THIEU IS DOING HOLDS OUT ANY HOPE OF END TO
WAR, ECON CRISIS OR DEVASTATION OF VIET NATIONAL SPIRIT --
AND THERE REMAINS "DISTINCT POSSIBILITY" THAT WHAT IS
NOW CONTAINABLE MOVEMENT MAY BECOME IRRESISTIBLE TIDE.
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